

WINTER MAINTENANCE

Details

Clients Carillion Road Maintenance

Date Summer 2005

Location Surrey

Working with Surrey County Council

Sarah Sumner, Decision Maker Coordinator and Senior Data Controller, is a key figure in determining when to dispatch the gritters. “Decision making is as much art as it is science but technology is improving all the time, making it possible for decision makers to make better judgements and achieve the fine balance between our duty of care to highway users and the environment.”

The crews are on call from October through to March utilising salt from Chile in a total of 20 pre-wet gritters, owned by Surrey County Council, able to adjust the volume of salt spread for each run.

New Salt Barn for Esher Depot

As of October, the Surrey Highways Partnership will begin to monitor weather conditions and forecasts to determine when the roads in East Surrey require gritting as the Winter Maintenance programme commences.

Anticipated weather and temperatures are studied 24 hours a day using a combination of met office data and information from sensors and thermal maps provided by Vaisala. This technology predicts road conditions and allows informed decision makers to calculate the need for crews and gritters to be called out.

Demonstrating commitment to the contract to ensure productivity and efficiency, worn cladding of Esher’s salt barn was replaced by a watertight and economical structure, allowing easier and safer access to operatives loading and unloading the salt to be used.

Due to the corrosive nature of the salt, the aluminium cross beams and walls were rotting, the cladding material and clips were coming away and the salt was becoming contaminated with general waste and grit from surrounding areas. A local contractor working under the supervision of the Partnership replaced cladding with metal sheeting treated to be non-erosive and structural timbers. The entrance has been opened up to allow for delivery trucks to get into the barn and crossbeams lifted allowing sufficient height for tipping.

John Lowe, District Manager for Esher, said of the maintenance “The improvements to the salt barn will benefit all of the partnership by reducing the risks associated with vehicle movements during a very busy period and improving the storage facilities by reducing the risk of contamination of the salt.”

